



Rockville Reports

MARCH 2021 • VOL. 67 #3



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Rockville Metro Pedestrian Bridge Repairs to Begin March 1

Construction on the pedestrian bridge linking Rockville Town Center and the Rockville Metro Station over Rockville Pike is expected to begin March 1 and last about seven months, Metro said in a Feb. 22 advisory.

Metro closed the bridge June 17 due to safety concerns after glass panels in the bridge shattered.

The work, which is being managed by Metro, will include repairing two glass panels, replac-

ing brackets and rubber pads that support the panels, and concrete work. A second contractor will make roof repairs. Structural repairs and roof replacement will occur simultaneously.

Construction is planned for weekdays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. The contract allows for night and weekend work, though none is planned unless deemed necessary by Maryland Department of Transportation permitting for

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Rockville Ranks Highly in Latest WalletHub Diversity Study

Rockville ranked seventh overall and fourth among small cities in the U.S. for its ethnic diversity, placing highly again in an annual WalletHub study.

Rockville, Gaithersburg, Germantown and Silver Spring occupy the top four spots on

WalletHub's list and four of the top 10 spots among all cities, of any size, in the entire United States.

"The U.S. today is a melting pot of cultures, thanks to increasing ethnic and racial diversification," WalletHub stated

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Planning Commission to Recommend Comprehensive Plan Draft to Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council will begin their review of the Planning Commission's draft comprehensive plan update, starting this month.

After an extensive public input process and preparation of the draft plan, the Rockville Planning Commission is scheduled to present their recommended plan update during the Mayor and Council's March 15 meeting. A

public comment period into April will allow further community input.

Rockville's comprehensive plan sets a vision and goals for the future of the city, with practical policies and actions to achieve those goals.

The comprehensive plan is organized in two sections. The first section contains 10 broad citywide "Elements," in-

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COVID-19: Vaccinating and Donating to Help Rockville's Recovery

Acting state health Secretary Dennis R. Schrader outlined Maryland's efforts to distribute the state's allocation of COVID-19 vaccines in a Feb. 2 letter to Rockville's Mayor and Council. The letter comes in response to a Jan. 26 letter in which the Mayor and Council called on the state to send more vaccine to Montgomery County.

Find both letters at RockvilleReports.com/state-responds-to-mayor-and-councils-call-for-vaccine.

Getting the Vaccine

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is preregistering people based on their priority group status, as set by the state of Maryland.

- To preregister, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine or call 240-777-2982. Demand is high and supplies limited. Anticipate delays when you call.
- For more information about vaccine distribution and priority groups, sign up for the county's email/text vaccine updates at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/mdmontgomery/signup/21366.

Older adults who don't have access to the internet can call the state's new COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center at 1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

A new portal, at covidvax.maryland.gov, allows eligible

Marylanders to enter their address, ZIP code or location to view vaccination clinics available within a 50-mile radius.

Getting a Ride for Seniors

Seniors in need of a ride to a vaccination appointment, call:

- Senior Connection, 301-962-0820.
- Connect-A-Ride, 301-738-3252.

The Rockville Senior Center's Call and Ride program is available during this crisis to provide taxi coupons to seniors in need of transportation.

Seniors living in the city limits of Rockville and in need of transportation can call 240-314-8810 for assistance.

Getting Tested – For Free

Visit MoCoCOVIDTesting.org or call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755 for more information about free testing, no appointment needed.

Finding Food

Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food for a list of food resources around the county and other important information. Rockville seniors can call the senior center at 240-314-8800, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Paying Utility Bills

Past-due utility bills for City of Rockville water and sewer accounts are not be-

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Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Alarms

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 14, which is the ideal reminder for homeowners to check their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors while setting clocks forward an hour.

Alarms and detectors are the best way of notifying you and your family of a fire.

State law requires that battery-operated smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years from the date of manufacture. The devices should also be tested at least once a month.

State law also calls for older smoke alarms to be replaced with new, sealed, long-life battery-powered smoke alarms. Hardwired 120-volt electric smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years with new 120-volt smoke alarms with battery backup to ensure proper and timely operation in a fire. Homeowners with hardwired smoke alarms should not replace their devices with battery-powered alarms.

Fire code-compliant smoke alarms can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fire safety or email Carl Young, city fire marshal, at cyoung@rockvillemd.gov.

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MAYOR & COUNCIL
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이 정보를 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. RockvilleReports.com을 방문하여 페이지 오른쪽 위 Google Translate의 "Select Language" (원하는 언어) 메뉴를 여십시오.



Rockville Utilities

Rockville's four utility funds are enterprise funds. They function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. The utility funds are the water fund, the sewer fund, the refuse fund, and the stormwater management fund.

Revenue from the funds pays for repairs and replacement of aging water and sewer pipes and other infrastructure vital to providing these services, and for required payments to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission related to a regional wastewater treatment plant. The city does not control the amount paid for regional wastewater treatment.

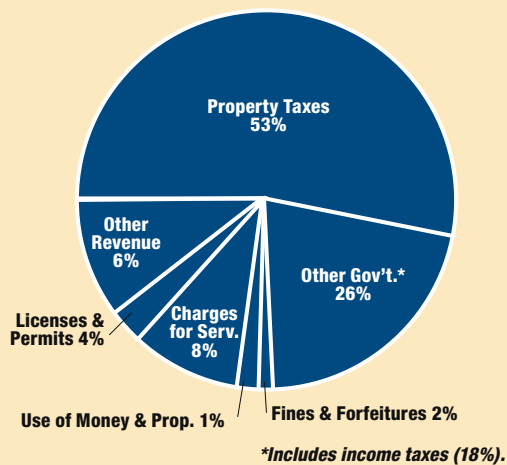
The water rate structure through calendar year 2021 is a tiered system that is based on meter size. Starting in January 2022, the city will transition to a rate structure that is based on property classification, namely single family, multifamily, and nonresidential. This new structure more equitably distributes the cost of providing water and sewer service.

Based on the proposed FY22 rates, annual residential expenses for city utilities for a sample family of four would increase by \$42.70.

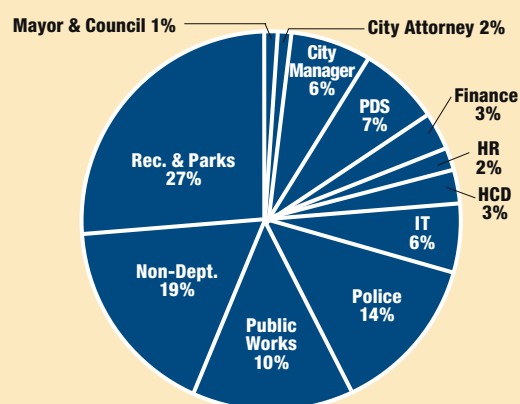
For tables illustrating the annual financial impact of changes to the city's fees and charges for a sample household, see page 28 of the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Understanding the General Fund

Proposed FY22 General Fund Revenues



Proposed FY22 General Fund Expenditures



Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2022

Rockville's Mayor and Council continue budget deliberations this month with public hearings and work sessions focused on crafting a Fiscal Year 2022 budget that outlines the city's priorities.

City Manager Rob DiSpirito on Feb. 22 presented the Mayor and Council with a FY 2022 budget proposal that addresses the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Rockville community.

"Due to the financial pressures on the Rockville community as a result of the pandemic, the proposed budget includes no increases in real or personal property tax rates, a six-month delay in adjustments to the city's water and sewer utility rates, a modest increase of \$14 per year for the refuse and recycling rate, and no increase in the stormwater management fee," DiSpirito wrote in a letter introducing the budget.

Find video of the presentation with the Feb. 22 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption by the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 3.

The proposed FY 2022 operating budget of \$139.7 million is a decrease of less than 1% from the FY 2021 adopted budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$85.3 million, a 0.8% increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY22. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995.

The proposed budget prioritizes assistance to the community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes a grant that is \$45,000 above traditional funding for caregiver agencies to assist residents with food, housing, utilities and other critical services and a \$15,200 subsidy to the Farmers Market Eat Fresh Program, to provide fresh and healthy foods to individuals who qualify. The budget also commits \$270,000 in reserve funds toward redesigning the city's website and

\$150,000 for software that facilitates easier access to city services.

Other priorities in the proposal include:

- \$3 million for the Department of Housing and Community Development, created in 2020 to more effectively address the need for affordable housing and social services.
- \$1.4 million for Rockville Economic Development, Inc., to recruit, retain and conduct outreach to Rockville businesses.
- Transportation, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvement projects to support Vision Zero, a strategy to eliminate all traffic and pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and fair mobility for all.
- Developing the city's sustainability initiatives and

Climate Action Plan.

- Social justice, inclusion and diversity initiatives.

The proposal funds an assistant to the city manager for equity, inclusion and diversity, as well as a mental health specialist for the police department.

The proposed FY 2022-FY 2026 CIP, the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, includes \$20.8 million in new funding, combined with a carryover of \$55.4 million to support 45 projects during the fiscal year. ✚

OFFER YOUR IDEAS

- Using the budget survey, in English and Spanish, at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings during the Mayor and Council meetings on March 1 and April 12.

FY 2022 BUDGET AT A GLANCE CALENDAR

- **Monday, March 1:** Work session and public hearing.
- **Monday, March 22:** Work session.
- **Monday, April 12:** Public hearing.
- **Friday, April 16:** Close of budget public record.
- **Monday, April 19:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 3:** Adoption of FY22 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Thursday, July 1:** FY 2022 begins.

For information about how to testify at hearings, find agendas, posted the week before each date at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Meetings are broadcast on channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

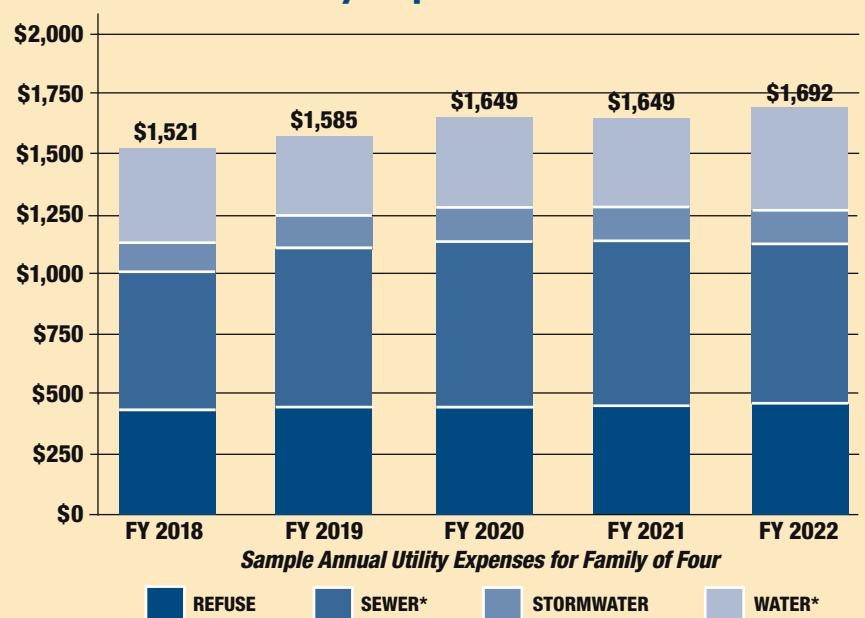
To review the proposed budget, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Proposed Rockville Utility Rates

Based on the proposed FY22 rates, annual residential expenses for city utilities for a sample family of four would increase by \$42.70 for the year.

	ADOPTED FY 2021	PROPOSED FY 2022
Refuse and Recycling Rate	\$445 per year	\$459 per year
Sewer Rate*	\$679.48 per year	\$671.56 per year
Stormwater Management Rate	\$132 per year	\$132 per year
Water Rate*	\$392.96 per year	\$429.58 per year

Past Five Years of Utility Expenses



• Nearly all the capital costs in the sewer fund, and a substantial portion of the operating costs, are payments that are not controlled by the city for the operation of and capital improvements to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. For more on water and sewer rates, see page 371 of the proposed budget. Find the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? March is packed — not only is it Women's History Month, March celebrates the American Red Cross, Irish-American heritage, middle level education, youth art, and music in our schools. It's also National Celery Month, which tangentially fits with March as National Nutrition Month, as well as National Professional Social Work Month. (St. Patrick's Day is Wednesday, March 17. Have fun, but be responsible!)

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



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VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Regular meetings at 7 p.m. on Mondays, March 1, 15 and 22. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The March 15 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg from 5:30-6:30 p.m. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. March 15 at www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/ Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227.

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.



Samhitha Maramreddy, one of 2017's "If I Were Mayor" essay contest winners. Samhitha served as Rockville's honorary mayor for a day.

Calling All Fourth Graders! MML Launches 'If I Were Mayor' Contest

It's that time of year when Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton visits fourth-grade classes to talk about the role of mayor and local government, and encourages students to enter the annual "If I Were Mayor" essay contest held by the Maryland Municipal League.

This year's theme is "Teamwork Through Flexibility, Respect, Leadership, Civility." Students are asked to write an essay that shares a problem in their city or community and describes how, as mayor, they would bring people together virtually to collaborate and find solutions. One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout Maryland.

Winners receive \$100 cash, a citation from Gov. Larry Hogan, and will be recognized during an awards ceremony later in spring. Essays must be received online by noon Tuesday, March 30.

The mayor welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be mayor of Rockville.

Teachers or school administrators may email jmoble@rockvillemd.gov to arrange for the mayor to visit their class virtually or in person if schools are back in session. A visit by the mayor is not required for students to participate. The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate.

The contest is organized by the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors Association, and will be digital this year due to the pandemic.

For more information, including guidelines and forms for submitting entries online, visit www.mdmmunicipal.org/168/Mayors-Essay-Contest.

Mayor and Council Adopt Design Guidelines for East Rockville

The Mayor and Council adopted at their Monday, Feb. 1 meeting a zoning amendment to allow implementation of the East Rockville Design Guidelines and Standards.

The design guidelines include requirements, in addition to the existing residential zoning, that apply to new single-unit home construction and significant additions to existing homes.

Residents of East Rockville engaged with city staff and a design consultant over the

course of a year to develop the design guidelines for the East Rockville neighborhood.

The project is rooted in recommendations from the 2004 East Rockville Neighborhood Plan to retain the unique and diverse physical and natural characteristics of the community.

To review the East Rockville Design Guidelines, as well as for staff contacts, visit the project webpage at www.rockvillemd.gov/2249.

COVID-19 Roundup

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ing charged a late fee. The city is not shutting off water and sewer service for delinquent accounts. Residents are encouraged to pay bills online at www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling. If you need assistance, please email utilitybilling@rockvillemd.gov.

How to Help

If you would like to partner with the City of Rockville to help neighbors in need, consider donating at bit.ly/donaterockville.

Reopening

Montgomery County remains in the second of three reopening phases, with reopening guidelines limiting office use and encouraging telework.

With these guidelines in mind, the city is not able to welcome visitors back to City Hall

or many city facilities, and no definitive date for reopening can be established at this time.

Information about the city's response to the pandemic is available at www.rockvillemd.gov, on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Nextdoor), and on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable).

Visit mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates to sign up for Rockville's email newsletter featuring city, state and county news about COVID-19. For general inquiries about city operations, call 240-314-5000.



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COMPLETE LA ENCUESTA
Presupuesto de la Ciudad de Rockville Para el Año Fiscal 2022

La participación pública en el proceso del presupuesto es una prioridad para el personal de la ciudad, la Alcaldesa y el Consejo. Al llenar la encuesta sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2022, estará proporcionando comentarios valiosos a la Alcaldesa y al Consejo para sus discusiones sobre el presupuesto para el año fiscal 2022.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget

IMPORTANT NUMBERS: Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **March 10 and 24 Planning Commission 7 p.m.** (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

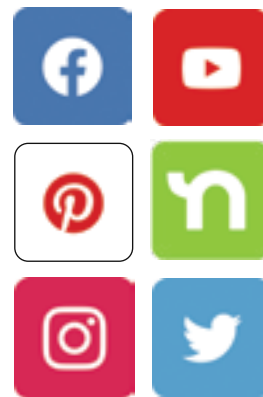
Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Historic District Commission (1 alt.)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Comm. (2 tenant alts.)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (2)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

Connect with us on Social Media.



► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.



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 - One-Time Pay to quickly view and pay without registering.

It's safe, simple and secure.

www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling



New Bike Racks Installed in Rockville's Parks

Eight parks in Rockville now have newly installed bicycle racks, with another installation to come soon.

Dogwood, Elwood Smith, Potomac Woods, Rockcrest, Welsh, Woodley Gardens and Woottons Mill parks each have a new rack. Rockville's newest park, RedGate, has two.

A new bike rack is scheduled to be installed at Hillcrest Park following asphalt path repairs in spring.

For more on Rockville's 67 parks, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/974/parks.

WalletHub Diversity Study

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in its Feb. 17 release of the study. "If the trend continues, America will be more colorful than ever by 2045, at which point no single ethnic group will constitute the majority in the U.S. for the first time.

Gaithersburg took top billing on the small cities' list of those municipalities with fewer than 100,000 residents. Rockville earned the same high placement among small cities in WalletHub's 2017-2020 studies.

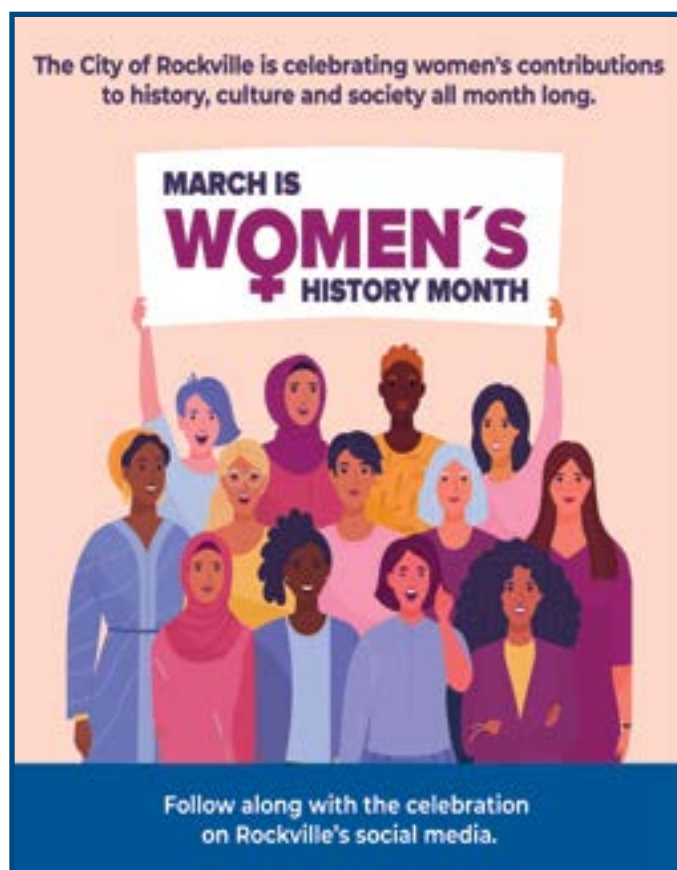
To identify the most ethnically diverse places in America, WalletHub compared more than 500 of the

largest U.S. cities across three key metrics.

Rockville ranked 30th overall in ethno-racial diversity, ninth overall in linguistic diversity and 29th overall in birthplace diversity.

More than one-third of the city's 68,298 residents were born outside of the U.S., according to a 2018 population estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau. Of those, 28.9% are Asian, 15.3% are Hispanic or Latino, and 10.7% are black. More than 45% spoke a language other than English at home.

Read the complete rankings at WalletHub.com. ➕



American Red Cross Seeks African American Blood Donors in Rockville

The American Red Cross is seeking donations at its Rockville donor center as part of a new campaign to increase its pool of Black and African American blood donors and help people with sickle cell disease.

Sickle cell disease is the most common genetic blood disease in the United States, where it affects approximately 100,000 people of all ethnicities, most of whom are of African or Latino descent. Sickle cell disease causes red blood cells to be hard and crescent-shaped, instead of soft and round. As a result, blood has difficulty flowing smoothly and carrying oxygen throughout the body, which may lead to severe pain, tissue and organ damage, anemia, and even strokes. Transfusions can provide a lifesaving treatment for patients during a sickle cell crisis by increasing the number of normal red blood cells to deliver oxygen throughout the body and unblock blood vessels. A single patient can receive up to 100 pints of blood each year.

Black and African American donors are more

likely than other demographics to have blood-specific properties best suited to alleviate the painful symptoms of sickle cell disease. Well-matched blood can decrease the risk of complications related to

transfusion therapy, especially in patients who receive lifelong transfusions.

Increasing the donor pool increases the Red Cross's ability to serve more patients with sickle cell disease. It is also critical to increase the number of available blood donors from all racial and ethnic groups. The Red Cross has COVID-19 safety measures in place to ensure a safe donation process. If you would like to donate, the American Red Cross Blood, Platelet and Plasma Donor Center is in the Saratoga Building, 11820 Parklawn Drive, Suite 510.

For hours and more information, or to schedule an appointment to donate, visit www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/location/rockville-american-red-cross.html or call Rockville blood donor center at 301-945-9044 or 1-800-RED-CROSS. ➕



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Rockville's Community Celebrates Week of Service

Thanks to the over 200 volunteers who participated in the City of Rockville's Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service.

Learn how you can serve your community throughout the year by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer



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www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Welcome in the Year of the Ox with the Rockville's virtual Lunar New Year celebration; "60+ Spotlight" focuses on COVID-19 testing and vaccines; and meet the Rockville Cemetery Association.

Aging and Nutrition, Beneficial Criticism, and Eye Health Virtual March Programs at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay well with online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in March. For details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

Register online, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov for more information. Sessions are free, unless otherwise noted.

Myths and Facts: Nutrition as We Age

Nutrition has an impact on our physical and mental health. Join this discussion on how nutritional needs change as we age. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Register with course #17370. 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, March 10.

The Gift of Criticism

Criticism can be a valuable tool rather than something to avoid. Intentional communication, which includes criticism, can have a profound impact on our lives.

Learn how to present

and respond to criticism so that it is mutually beneficial to all parties involved. Discover how to upgrade communication skills and improve relationships. This presentation is based on the speaker's book, "The Gift of Criticism." Presented by Bill Neely, performance coach, minister and chaplain, Brook Grove Retirement Village.

Register with course #17493. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 18.

Keep Your Eye on the Prize

Learn the essentials of eye health, as well as prevention and treatment options for cataracts, with Wilmer Eye Institute ophthalmologist, Nakul Shekhawat.

Register with course #17653. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 25.

For more information about the Rockville Senior Center, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter. ✚

Serve Your Community: Volunteer for Rockville

More than ever, people are looking for ways to help the community and each other.

While the pandemic is limiting volunteering to activities where social distancing and other safety protocols can be practiced, there are still plenty of opportunities to make a big difference in Rockville. Opportunities with the SSL label below are eligible for Student Service Learning credit hours.

Community members looking to **keep our city streams clean and our city weed free** can apply to adopt a stream (www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream) or join the city's Weed Warriors (www.rockvillemd.gov/639/Weed-Warriors). **SSL**

Prefer to go it alone? Volunteer to complete a self-guided litter cleanup to help keep Rockville trash free, as part of **CleanUp Rockville**. Choose one of Rockville's 66 parks or stream valleys to clean. Participants must provide their own equipment. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration with course #18457. **SSL**

The Rockville Senior Center coordinates volunteers to **shovel snow or rake leaves** for seniors and can connect you with neighbors near you. To volunteer or to request snow-shoveling or leaf-raking assistance, contact Jerry Jones at jjones@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8819 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/snow shoveling. For more information about Rockville Senior Services, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov. **SSL**

Rockville Community Ambassadors are volunteers that represent the City of Rockville in the community and at special events, serving as community connectors, providing support to residents while creating awareness of events and opportunities within their community.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/2288/City-Ambassador. **SSL**

Want to get a bit more involved? Adult residents can provide the Mayor and Council with informed opinions, ideas and expertise to help shape the city by serving on a city board or commission. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

So What Else, a Rockville nonprofit, is one of several organizations in our community helping families affected by food insecurity. So What Else operates a food bank Monday-Friday as part of its COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan, distributing about 50,000 meals every day.

You can volunteer to **help in the food pantry, as a delivery driver or by hosting a neighborhood food drive**. The pantry is also looking for volunteers fluent in both Spanish and English to **provide translation services** for Spanish-speaking clients. Donations are also welcome. Learn more at sowhatelse.org.

If you are short on time, but have the means, you can **help Rockville residents experiencing financial crisis** by donating at www.rockvillemd.gov/donate.

The **Senior Assistance Fund** provides financial assistance to eligible individuals age 60 and older so they can participate in programs, trips and join the Rockville Senior Center. During the COVID-19 emergency, all donations are going toward purchasing food and essential items for the 60-plus community.

Find **more opportunities** for volunteering or giving in Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer. For opportunities around the county, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter. ✚

Explore Our City with Peerless Rockville's Scavenger Hunt and Self-Guided Tour

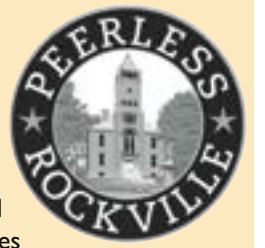
Celebrate the coming of spring by getting outside and exploring Rockville's historic and unique places with Peerless Rockville.

Building on the success of October's scavenger hunt and tour, the latest Explore Rockville event, scheduled for Thursday, March 18-Sunday, March 21, will feature more than 15 sites

— all new — across the city. Tour stops are a surprise and are likely to take you to places you've never been to learn the history of sites you pass by all the time. Participants are asked to observe public health requirements with face masks and social distancing.

Each household will receive a link to a printable program featuring instructions and activities for each stop, as well as the link to a virtual program with highlights of a tour at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 21. The self-guided tour is designed for households to safely explore sites across the city, learn new details about the world around them and enjoy communal pride through social media and a Zoom gathering. Cost is \$15 per household.

Spots are limited. Earn a cool commemorative pin (limit two per household) for completing the tour by tagging Peerless Rockville on social media, signing its website guestbook or emailing your scavenger hunt results. Learn more and register at peerlessrockville.org.



Peerless Presents a Pioneer in Psychiatry

Join Peerless Rockville and professor Gail Hornstein, author of "To Redeem One Person Is to Redeem the World: The Life of Frieda Fromm-Reichmann," online for a free presentation at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 25.

Hornstein will tell the inspiring story of Fromm-Reichmann, the German-Jewish refugee analyst who was able to do what Freud and almost everyone else thought impossible — successfully treat people diagnosed with schizophrenia and other severe forms of emotional distress using intensive psychotherapy, rather than medication, lobotomy or shock treatment.

A pioneer in her field, Fromm-Reichmann was the pivotal figure of Rockville's unique and legendary mental hospital, Chestnut Lodge. In honor of her extraordinary achievements, Frieda's Cottage — her home and office at Chestnut Lodge for more than 20 years, and an iconic place in the history of psychiatry — was recently declared a National Historic Landmark.

Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting upon registration at peerlessrockville.org.

Enroll Now for Montrose Discovery Preschool

*In Search of Daycare?
Now's the Time to Plan Ahead!*

Spaces are available at Montrose Discovery Preschool for kids aged 3-5. Rockville's licensed preschool provides excellent care in a safe, clean environment!

- Smaller class sizes.
- Morning temperature checks.
- Face masks and physical distancing.
- More time outside, including free play, organized games, circle time and snack time.

Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Email childcare@rockvillemd.gov with questions or to schedule a virtual tour.



STUDENTS LIVING IN OR ATTENDING SCHOOL IN ROCKVILLE ARE INVITED TO ENTER THE

Rockville Human Rights Commission's Multimedia Scholarship Competition

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 29

HUMAN RIGHTS

Foster awareness about human rights through an essay, poem, song, painting or other medium.

1st, 2nd & 3rd place earn scholarships worth a combined \$2,500, and will be recognized by the Mayor and Council.

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school.

City of Rockville

FOR MORE DETAILS: www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights or email jkelly@rockvillemd.gov

2021

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

We're all in this together

Friday, April 23 at 8 p.m.

Broadcast Premiere on Rockville 11 (In SD Comcast Channel 11/HD M&N Comcast 997)

Live Chat with Us During YouTube Premiere [YouTube.com/CityofRockville](https://www.youtube.com/CityofRockville)

Virtual performance, citizenship welcome, fun facts, recipes and more!



GO GREEN IN YOUR INBOX ... Get regular updates about the city's environmental efforts and events, including news about Rockville writing its first Climate Action Plan, and tips for living greener year-round. Sign up for the Environment and Sustainability News email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters.



Do Your Bit to Deter Deer

Area wildlife helps maintain a healthy ecosystem but can become a nuisance. Here's a few ways you can learn to live with, and discourage, deer.

- Taste or odor repellent are humane forms of control designed to repel deer from an area. You can find repellents at sporting goods stores.
- Plant deer-resistant native plants.
- Install fencing and physical barriers.
- Do not feed the deer. (Feeding wildlife can do more harm than good.)

For general deer-related information, call Rockville's Parks and Facilities Division at 240-314-8700. To report dead or injured deer, call the Rockville City Police Department's non-emergency line at 240-314-8900.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/1084/Wildlife-Management for more information.



A Little Piece of Land to Grow Your Own

Garden Plot Applications Being Accepted

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, about 25-by-25 feet, now available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing flowers and vegetables.

The cost is \$80 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$70 per plot. The season runs April 1-Nov. 14.

The city provides access to water and mulch. Gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

A registration form can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots. Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office at 240-314-8660 for more information.

Want to help local Rockville businesses during a tough time?

Here's how.

- Order takeout or pickup (and tip a little extra, if you can afford it).
- Buy gift cards online.
- Shop at the business's online store.
- Leave a positive review.
- Share information about the business to social media.

Celebrate Earth Day the Rockville Way

Rockville celebrates Earth Month in April, marking the 51st Earth Day, on Thursday, April 22. The city gets started early with the following activities and volunteer events aimed at protecting the environment beginning in March:

March 6: Weed Warrior Workday at Woottons Mill Park, 2-4 p.m. SSL

Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for a non-native, invasive plant removal workday. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

March 6: Nature to Go Mini Kits, Pick up kits 10

Metro Pedestrian Bridge

continued from pg. 1...

work over Rockville Pike (MD 355). Rockville Department of Public Works staff met with Metro representatives in October to discuss the repairs and explained the need to comply with the county's noise ordinance.

The project, which was identified by the Mayor and Council as a priority, is expected to cost \$1.7 million, with the city covering \$425,000 of the cost.

Accessible parking spaces in the west Kiss & Ride, adjacent to Rockville Pike, will be temporarily relocated to the south section of the lot during construction. Kiss & Ride users are advised to follow

a.m.-4 p.m.

Interested in doing seasonal nature and science activities with your child but don't have the time to figure it out? Let Croydon Creek Nature Center do it for you! Register by selecting "View Programs" at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

March 14: Crafternoons from Croydon (Facebook Live), 3-3:30 p.m.

Learn how to make crafts from recycled and common items you likely have around the house during this virtual crafting session. Like Croydon Creek Nature Center on Facebook to participate on Facebook Live.

participate on Facebook Live.

March 18: How to Maintain a Healthy, Organic Lawn (Virtual), 7-8 p.m.

Learn how to maintain an organic lawn without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, understand soil health, and discuss organic soil amendments with Mary Travaglini of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Register at bit.ly/healthyorganiclawn.

March 20: Trail Cleanup at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 9 a.m.-noon. SSL

Help improve your community and the environment by cleaning up in the Hayes

Forest Preserve. Register by selecting "View Programs" at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

March 21: Weed Warrior Workday at Twinbrook Park, 2-4 p.m. SSL

Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for a non-native, invasive plant removal workday. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

March 22: Proclamation.

The Mayor and Council will issue a proclamation recognizing Earth Hour and Earth Day in Rockville.

March 27: Ask A Naturalist (Facebook Live), 10-

continued on pg. 7...

AREA 1: April 5 & 6
AREA 2: April 7 & 8
AREA 3: April 9 & 12
AREA 4: April 13 & 14
AREA 5: April 15 & 16

See interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection.

Raking News: Spring Leaf Collection in April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 5-16 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection allows residents to input their address and learn when their leaves will be collected. Unlike fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid

grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills.

Rockville is Tops in State on Clean Energy Scorecard

The City of Rockville was the top-scoring Maryland municipality in a 2020 analysis of cities' energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies.

Rockville placed seventh among 30 small and mid-sized cities nationally ranked on the City Clean Energy Scorecard. The self-scoring tool by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy measured energy efficiency and greenhouse gas-related metrics, policies and programs. It was the first time the city participated in the analysis, which also ranked the Maryland municipalities of Takoma Park, Annapolis, Edmonston,

College Park and Thurmont.

Rockville received points for renewable-sourced electricity purchases by the city and community, solar co-op participation, the city's climate action planning launch, and green building codes. Rockville is continuing to work with ACEEE and the Sustainable States Initiative to learn about viable cutting-edge best practices as the city develops its first Climate Action Plan. Learn more about the plan at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

Find the scorecard at www.aceee.org/press-release/2021/01/aceee-analysis-finds-small-cities-can-lead-clean-energy-too.

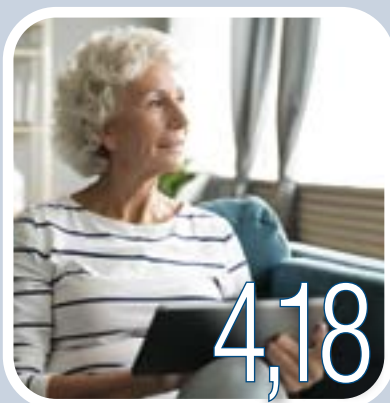
LIGHTS OUT! ... Rockville will turn out the lights in observance of Earth Hour, an international effort in support of climate change action. Earth Hour encourages people to turn off all non-essential lights in their homes and businesses for one hour, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27. See the article above for more ways to make every day Earth Day!

March CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- F** Facebook Live Event



4,18



6



13



25

1,15,22 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING. **V** Via WebEx. See www.rockvillemd.gov/Agenda Center for details.

1,15 MEMORY CAFE **V**

Alzheimer's Association Memory Cafes offer a fun, relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect with one another through social events that promote interaction and companionship. Meets first and third Monday. Must contact representative Sheila Griffith at 240-844-3608 or sagriffith@alz.org before attending group. noon-1:30 p.m. **SR**

2,16 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: HAPPINESS **V**

Ever wonder how you could increase your happiness? Explore prescriptions for happiness, based on Adlerian psychology. Meets first and third Tuesday of each month. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

4,16 MAKING MEMORIES TOGETHER **V**

A great game to play with loved ones, whether experiencing the challenges of cognitive changes or not. Games are provided free of charge. Bring your own pictures. Presented by Patricia Dubroof, director of community relations at Assisting Hands Home Care. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 10-11 a.m. **SR**

4,18 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: WOMEN LIVING ALONE **V**

A long-standing open-enrollment support group where members support each other by listening, expressing concern and offering tips, suggestions and advice. Meets first and third Thursday. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

6 NATURE TO GO: MINI KITS **V**

Interested in doing some seasonal nature and science activities with your 3-5 year old but don't have the time figure it out? Let the nature center's staff do it for you with Nature to Go Mini Kits. Each kit contains three activities with instructions and specialty supplies you can do on your own schedule with your child. A list of additional common supplies needed will be included. Kits can be picked up by appointment at the nature center. Register with course #17246. \$20 R/\$25 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

6 NATURE TO GO: MINI KITS **V**

Interested in doing some seasonal nature and science activities with your 5-7 year old but don't have the time figure it out? Let the nature center's staff do it for you with Nature to Go Mini Kits. Each kit contains three activities with instructions and specialty supplies you can do on your own schedule with your child. A list of additional common supplies needed will be included. Kits can be picked up by appointment at the nature center. Register with course #17247. \$20 R/\$25 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

9,23 BRAIN GAMES **V**

Brains change as we age. Regular brain exercise can improve mental functioning, attention to detail and processing speed. Join the fun and work your brain as you harmoniously compete in various games and puzzles. Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

9 MYTHS AND FACTS: NUTRITION AS WE AGE **V**

Nutrition has an impact on physical and mental health. Discuss how nutritional needs change as we age. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

9 SCIENCE TUESDAYS **V**

A conversation with a scientist, each meeting focusing on a different topic. No scientific background required, just curiosity. Co-sponsored by Rockville Science Center. Second Tuesday of the month.

Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

10 \$SPRING INTO SAVINGS **V**

Highlights ways that people can reduce energy in their homes and keep money in their pockets. An interactive presentation, like "Jeopardy!", with prizes. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

10 SCAMS, FRAUD, AND CONS: HOW TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR MONEY SAFE **V**

Join the ElderSAFE Center for an interactive discussion on the most common scams, how to protect yourself and information on reporting fraud. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

11,25 HOW TO HEAL A BROKEN HEART **V**

A group for anyone seeking new insight into how best to handle a broken heart and eventually move on. This group will discuss suggestions by psychologist Guy Winch in his 2018 book, "How to Fix a Broken Heart." Meets second and fourth Thursday of each month. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

13 CRITTER TALES AT CROYDON CREEK **V**

A Saturday morning Facebook Live fall-themed story and chance to meet one of the nature center's critters. Visit www.facebook.com/croydoncreek. 10-10:15 a.m. **CC**

14 CRAFTERNOONS FROM CROYDON **V**

Learn how to make fun crafts from recycled and common items you have around your house during this virtual crafting session. Visit www.facebook.com/croydoncreek. 3-3:30 p.m. **CC**

18 THE GIFT OF CRITICISM **V**

Learn how to present and respond to criticism so that it is mutually beneficial to all parties involved, and discover how you can upgrade your communication skills and improve your relationships. Presented by Bill Neely, performance coach, minister and chaplain at Brook Grove Retirement Village. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

20 TRAIL CLEANUP

Help improve your community and the environment by cleaning up in the Hayes Forest Preserve. Each volunteer will receive gloves, a garbage bag and a set of trash pickers to use for the morning. 9 a.m.-noon **CC**

25 KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE **V**

Learn the essentials of eye health, as well as prevention and treatment options for cataracts, with Wilmer Eye Institute ophthalmologist Nakul Skekhawat. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

27 ASK A NATURALIST **V**

Looking for answers about something you saw in nature? Wondering how to tell the difference between a frog and a toad? How fast can an eastern cottontail rabbit run? What are some signs of spring to look for on your next hike? Pop into Croydon Creek Nature Center's Facebook Live and ask naturalists your burning nature questions. 10-10:30 a.m. **CC**

30 ANGER MANAGEMENT **V**

This one-session class will provide a brief overview of how to manage anger and cope with frustration so you can be more effective and happier. Call 240-314-8800 to register. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

30 PARK ADVENTURE: SPRING PLAY DAYS. Spend the morning at Potomac Woods Park sampling some of our favorite camp games and crafts as we prepare to Return to Fun in Summer 2021! Experienced staff will lead children aged 5-11 through a morning full of activities to showcase how fun camp can be, even while practicing physical distancing and wearing face coverings. Program will be held outdoors. (Will also be held 10 a.m.-noon, Thursday, April 1 at Woodley Gardens Park.) 10 a.m.-noon. \$15 R/\$20 NR.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX



Earth Month Offerings

continued from pg. 6...

10:30 a.m.

Looking for answers about something you saw in nature? Like Croydon Creek Nature Center on Facebook to participate on Facebook Live.

April 3: Weed Warrior Workday at Mt. Vernon Park, 2-4 p.m. **SSL**

Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for a non-native, invasive plant removal workday. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Ongoing: CleanUp Rockville (Virtual Volunteer Opportunity) **SSL**

Volunteer to complete a self-guided lit-

ter cleanup to help keep Rockville trash free. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration with course #18457. Instructions will be provided during checkout with details on how to complete SSL hours.

Participants can choose one of Rockville's 67 parks or stream valleys to clean and must provide their own equipment. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. All children and adults taking part must register. Montgomery County health guidelines must be followed.

Ongoing: Take the Plogging Pledge.

Plogging is picking up litter while you walk, jog or run. Pledge to plog in Rockville and receive a free plogging bag,

while supplies last. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment to take the pledge.

Croydon Creek Nature Center Offers Virtual Programs Throughout the Year

Looking for more to do both outside and virtually? Find it at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Read April's "Rockville Reports" for more events. Sign up to receive the city's Environment and Sustainability quarterly newsletter to get the latest updates on environmental news and programs during Earth Month and throughout the year. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability." ❖

Registration for Spring Sports to Open This Month

Adult sports during the spring are: men's softball; co-rec softball; co-rec outdoor volleyball; women's outdoor volleyball; and co-rec soccer. Game nights vary.

Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March.

Youth sports for spring are youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball, soccer and cross country. Practices for youth cross country begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball, and coach-pitch baseball begin in early April, with games beginning mid-April.

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 11. Coaches are needed for teams in spring youth sports leagues. If you're interested in taking part, contact sports@rockvillemd.gov.

Sports programs are held outdoors using safety precautions provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Participants' safety is the city's primary concern.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.

Spring into Action with Rockville's Spring Activities Guides

"Life in Rockville" and "Adults 60+," the city's guides to recreational programs, throughout Rockville, are out and packed with the promise of spring! Registration begins Thursday, March 4.

Find dozens of things to do from March to May: sports and leagues for all ages; aquatics and fitness programs; virtual events and classes; and much more.

"Adults 60+," a publication of the Rockville Senior Center, lists programs for Rockville's older adults, including computer classes, educational courses, arts courses and health seminars.

Proper health and safety protocols will be followed for all in-person programs.

See the guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. To register online for programs, courses and events, and to browse online listings of what the city has to offer, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

County to Provide Free, Virtual Tax Preparation Appointments through VITA

Montgomery County is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$56,000 or less in 2020.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who can help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, and e-file their federal and state tax forms.

The program is using a virtual tax preparation model during the COVID-19 emergency. Virtual VITA allows county residents to use an online platform to securely upload their tax documents and have their taxes prepared for free by a certified tax preparer. No in-person contact is required.

Virtual appointments are available by calling 240-777-1123. TTY users can call Maryland Relay 711.

For more info, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Working on a Historic Property? You Could Qualify for a Tax Credit

Restoring or repairing the outside of a historic home? Preserving the exterior of a historic structure? You could be eligible for a property tax credit.

Rockville participates in the tax credit program for local structures designated as historic. If your property in Rockville is designated by the city as historic and you spent at least \$1,000 on exterior maintenance between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020, you may be eligible for reduction of your property taxes for the coming year, up to 25% of the approved expenses.

Eligible projects include:

- Exterior painting.
- Uncovering and repairing original siding.
- Repairing roofs or replac-

ing them in-kind.

- Repointing brick or stone foundations, or chimneys.
- Repairing windows, architectural trim or ornament.
- Repairing and maintaining outbuildings, such as barns and garages.
- Restoring a documented feature, such as a dormer or porch that was previously altered or removed.

The city is now accepting applications for work completed in the calendar year 2020. For more information, contact 240-314-8230 or email history@rockvillemd.gov.

Applications should be postmarked by April 15, and sent to Rockville Historic Preservation, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville MD 20850. ✚

Comprehensive Plan Draft

continued from pg. 1...

cluding topics such as transportation, recreation and parks, and municipal growth. The second section focuses on issues and opportunities specific to 17 neighborhood-scale planning areas.

The Planning Commission's draft comprehensive plan is

based on feedback gathered throughout the Rockville 2040 process. If adopted, it will replace the city's 2002 comprehensive plan and many of its subsequent amendments.

For more info, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040 or principal planner Clark Larson at clarkson@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8225. ✚

Meet a Rockville Employee: Andrea Escher

Andrea Escher was recently named the Rockville City Police Department's public information officer. This civilian position is in addition to the many roles she already plays within the department.

What has your role been with the RCPD?

I began working with the city police in 2012.

I definitely wear many different hats at RCPD! First, and foremost, I am the executive assistant to Chief Victor Brito, and handle all administrative tasks in the Office of the Chief. But many city employees know me as the



Andrea Escher, RCPD public information officer

person to contact when they are having issues with their access cards or security cameras at city facilities. I assist with the recruitment of new police officers, organize community and department public safety events, coordinate the internal police officer promotion process, and try to provide the best cus-

tommer service to other city staff and departments, local police agencies, and the Rockville community.

Tell us about your new role. What do you do as a public information officer?

I have spent many years working in communications, and I have recently taken on a new role as the police department's

public information officer. I now serve as the primary point of contact when the media is seeking information about a crime or event that the police department has responded to. I also run the police department's

social media, draft press releases, and respond to any and all questions people may have about public safety in Rockville.

Anything else?

Follow city police on Facebook, Twitter (@RockvilleCityPD) and Instagram (@rockvillecitypolice). ✚



What can people do to get involved with Vision Zero?

- ▶ The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and the Traffic and Transportation Commission meet regularly to discuss transportation safety issues and welcome your participation.
- ▶ Read "Rockville Reports," watch Rockville 11 and follow the city on social media for opportunities to offer input on the Vision Zero Action Plan and the city's pedestrian master plan.
- ▶ If you see something that could immediately improve safety, let us know. Visit rockvillemd.gov to "Report a concern."
- ▶ Become an ambassador for safety by spreading the word about what Vision Zero is and how it can benefit the community.
- ▶ Let the city know of groups that the city should identify for outreach about Vision Zero and its mission.



WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, fair mobility for all.



WHAT'S YOUR VISION? Get involved with Vision Zero, the city's strategy to eliminate traffic and pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and fair mobility for all. Help us better understand your transportation, pedestrian and bicycle safety experience in Rockville by completing an online survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero. Older residents who would like assistance completing the survey can call the Rockville Senior Center at 240-314-8816.



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Interim Deputy City Manager: Tim Chesnutt
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

Web and Digital Manager: Tatum B. Walker
Graphics and Printing: Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler
Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

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TOILETS AREN'T TRASH CANS ... Rockville has a flushing problem. Increasing amounts of unflushable trash are clogging city sewer lines — and can clog pipes in your home, creating a costly mess. The "unflushables" include items you might not think of: Did you know "flushable" wipes really aren't? Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/dontflushtrash to learn more about what to flush, what not to, and what happens when unflushables get flushed. Warning: It's gross.